

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for review of the present application. Claims 12–31 were previously pending in the application, with Claims 1–11, 32, and 33 previously canceled.

Applicant appreciates the indication that Claim 23 is allowed and that Claims 13, 14, 20, 21, 26, and 30 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the recitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Claims 12, 15–19, 22, 24, 25, 27–29, and 31 stand rejected.

As a preliminary matter, Applicant has added Claim 34 as a new independent claim. Claim 34 generally includes subject matter that was indicated as allowable in other claims and, as such, is in condition for allowance. Additionally, dependent Claims 35–39 have been added to recite that the circuit element may be a resistor element.

Applicant has amended Claim 13 to include the recitations of independent Claim 12, from which it depended. Independent Claim 15, from which Claim 20 depended, has also been rewritten to include the recitations of Claim 20, which was indicated as allowable, and intervening Claim 16. Furthermore, independent Claim 24, from which Claim 26 depended, has been rewritten to include the recitations of Claim 26, which was indicated as allowable. As a result, Claims 12, 16, 20, and 26 have been canceled. As will be noted, in addition to including the recitations of a respective dependent claim, Claims 13, 15 and 24 have also been amended to reference a circuit element, while Claim 13 has been further amended to discuss the identification of a class of a user exchangeable cover part. In light of the foregoing amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that amended Claims 13, 15, and 24, and the claims that depend therefrom, are thus in condition for allowance.

Applicant has also amended independent Claim 22 to recite that “the connector part is configured to be operated in an identification state for sensing a circuit element value included in the identification unit, and in an operation state for transferring electrical signals between the wireless terminal and the electrical circuitry of the user exchangeable cover part.” As this amendment generally incorporates subject matter that was indicated as allowable in other claims,

Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 22 and the claims that depend therefrom are also now in condition for allowance.

The Office Action rejects independent Claim 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by EP 1091540 to Lindholm. Claim 29 recites an exchangeable cover part for releasable attachment to a wireless communication terminal that includes electrical circuitry for supporting a user interface of the terminal and an electrical connector for transmitting data between the electrical circuitry and the wireless communication terminal. The electrical circuitry includes a memory device that contains data to be downloaded to the wireless communication terminal via the electrical connector.

The Lindholm patent discloses a communication terminal having exchangeable parts. The phone 1 includes exchangeable front covers 21, 22 that a user can switch in order to obtain a preferred key layout on the phone. Lindholm, Figs. 3 and 4; ¶ [0013]. The phone 1 includes a processor 18 that can communicate with an identification unit 20 of the exchangeable front cover 21, 22 to identify the cover and to control the terminal and display 3 based on the identified cover 21, 22. ¶ [0019]. A connector including two connector parts 23, 25 forms an interface between the identification unit 20 of the exchangeable cover 21, 22 and the processor 18 of the phone 1. ¶ [0013], lines 51–54. Furthermore, the identification unit 20 of the cover 21, 22 includes a controller 31 (or CPU) and a memory area 33 that includes memories 33–36 for storing executable functions to be processed by the CPU 31. ¶¶ [0021], [0022].

Lindholm does not disclose downloading data from the memory area 33 to the communication terminal for execution, as recited in Claim 29. Rather, Lindholm discloses a memory area 33 of the identification unit 20 that stores executable functions for execution by the CPU 31 of the identification unit 20. Lindholm, ¶¶ [0021], [0022], lines 11–13. Thus, in Lindholm, “[h]igher level functions are permanently stored in the memory, indicating to the CPU what to do, when, and how to do it. These functions could be considered as being the operating system of the identification unit 20.” ¶ [0021], lines 7–9. In Claim 29, however, the data can be an executable game, data from a touch pad, or an MP3 file that is executed by the wireless terminal, which is necessarily distinct from the exchangeable cover part. Application, ¶ [0045].

Claim 29 has thus been amended to recite that “the electrical circuitry comprises a memory device containing data to be downloaded to the wireless communication terminal via the electrical connector for execution by the wireless communication terminal.” As such, the rejection of Claim 29, as well as Claim 31 which depends therefrom, is respectfully submitted to be overcome.

CONCLUSION

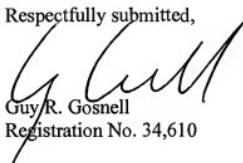
In view of the remarks and amendments presented above, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 13, 15, 22, 23, 24, 29, 34 and all the claims depending therefrom (*i.e.*, Claims 14, 17–19, 21, 25, 27–28, 30–31 and 35–39) are in condition for allowance. It is respectfully requested that a Notice of Allowance be issued in due course. The Examiner is requested to contact Applicant’s undersigned attorney to resolve any remaining issues in order to expedite examination of the present application.

The patentability of the independent claims has been argued as set forth above and thus Applicant will not take this opportunity to argue the merits of the rejection with regard to the dependent claims. However, Applicant does not concede that the dependent claims are not independently patentable and reserves the right to argue the patentability of the dependent claims at a later date if necessary.

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Reply to Office Action of October 12, 2007

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,



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